



Your business  
is our business.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575  
internet: [www.jsitel.com](http://www.jsitel.com), e-mail: [jsi@jsitel.com](mailto:jsi@jsitel.com)

June 29, 2016

**Via Hand Delivery**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58  
2016 ETC Annual Report of Elsie Communications Inc.  
Study Area Code 371518**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Elsie Communications Inc. ("Elsie"), JSI files the attached confidential version of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.<sup>1</sup> Company seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.<sup>2</sup> The redacted version is being filed this date via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. In addition, attached is a letter requesting confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Company's Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan Progress Report required by Section 54.313.<sup>3</sup>

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall  
JSI Vice President  
301-459-7590  
[jkuykendall@jsitel.com](mailto:jkuykendall@jsitel.com)

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

<sup>2</sup> *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, Protective Order, DA 16-296 rel. March 22, 2016 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).

<sup>3</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, 54.313.



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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58  
2016 ETC Annual Report of Elsie Communications Inc.  
Study Area Code 371518  
Request for Confidentiality**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Staurulakis, Inc. ("JSI"), on behalf of its client Elsie Communications Inc. (the "Company") hereby requests, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules,<sup>1</sup> withholding from public inspection certain information contained in an attachment to the above referenced reporting requirement. The Company provides the following in support of its request, numbered consistent with the subparagraphs of Section 0.459(b).<sup>2</sup>

1. The information for which the Company is seeking confidential treatment is an attachment to the Company's annual reporting information pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules ("Report").<sup>3</sup>
2. Pursuant to Section 54.313, Rate-of-Return Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") must file with the Commission a Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan ("Progress Report") which is contained in the attachment to the 2016 Report.<sup>4</sup>
3. The information contained in attachment for which the Company seeks the withholding from public inspection is the entirety of data pertaining to the Company's Progress Report provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment. Information of this nature is confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection.

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.

<sup>2</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1) through (9).

<sup>3</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

<sup>4</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313.

4. With respect to identifying the degree to which the subject attachment concerns a service that is subject to competition, the information is of a financial and competitive nature regarding the provision of telecommunications services. The Line 112 attachment contains competitively sensitive information related to proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance the Company's network.

In its *March 5, 2013 Order*, the FCC. The FCC specified that for rate-of-return carriers, the five-year plans "should describe the carrier's network improvement plan, which should provide greater visibility into current plans to extend broadband service to unserved locations in rate-of-return service territories."<sup>5</sup> The Company's Progress Report updates this information as well as provides maps and detailed information as to whether or not network improvement objectives were achieved at the wire center level. Accordingly, because the Company is a rate-of-return carrier, it must file Progress Reports which contain proprietary, competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network including the specific locations of customers as well as describe proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance of its network throughout its service area. Specifically, this information sets forth services provided by the Company over its existing network including specific locations of customers as well as planned network improvement and maintenance for the years 2015 through 2019 including project start and completion dates, population that will be impacted by the improvements and upgrades at the wire center level and projected capital costs associated with the improvements and upgrades and operating costs associated with maintaining the network including depreciation for investments that have already been made. As such, this information contains competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network as well as detailed plans at the wire center level for network upgrades and maintenance projected for the years 2015 through 2019.

5. With respect to identifying possible exposure to competitive harm, the information contained in the Line 112 attachment is information that is not customarily released to the public. This information is proprietary to the Company, is unique to the Company's serving territory and is only known to the Company and its authorized agents. If the Information is not protected, it would have economic value to potential competitors who would be able to target their marketing to specific customers. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive. If publicly disclosed, it would enable competitors to craft business plans that capitalize on their knowledge of the locations of the Company's customers which would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage.
6. With respect to steps the Company has taken to ensure against unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the attachment, the Company is filing the attachment under seal. The Company uses the information contained in the

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<sup>5</sup> See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 13-332 (rel. Mar. 5, 2013) ("*March 5, 2013 Order*") at para 9 citing Section 54.202(a) (1) (ii).

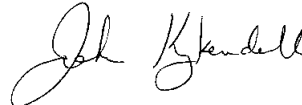
Progress Report to ensure that its customers continue to receive state-of-the-art high quality telecommunications and broadband services that the Company has been providing to them for many years as well as to satisfy mandatory reporting requirements and does not share the information for which protection is sought. The Company protects the secrecy of this information with a security protocol that ensures the information is not inadvertently disclosed or disseminated. Only directors, managers and employees with a direct need to know are authorized to access the information.

7. Any previous versions of this information are not publicly available.
8. Because the information is not routinely available, a need exists for maintaining the confidentiality of this information permanently.
9. Not applicable.

Based on the preceding, JSI respectfully requests on behalf of the Company that the Commission grant confidential treatment under Section 0.459 to Company's Progress Report provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



John Kuykendall  
JSI Vice President  
301-459-7590  
[jkuykendall@jsitel.com](mailto:jkuykendall@jsitel.com)

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting  
Data Collection Form****REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

**(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?	(yes / no ) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<111>	If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5 year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no ) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, please file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

371518ne112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- <113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets
- <114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received
- <115> How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality
- <116> How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage
- <117> How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity
- <118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes



<b>(300) Unfulfilled Service Request Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481
	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

0
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<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

0
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<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document



(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed voice	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	1 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed broadband	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0 . 0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

<b>(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules</b>		FCC Form 481
<b>Data Collection Form</b>		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
371518ne510.pdf		
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	

<b>(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations Data Collection Form</b>	<b>REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	371518ne610.pdf







<b>(900) Tribal Lands Reporting</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	371518
<015> Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

<900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) No

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

<1000>      Voice services rate comparability certification      Yes

<1010>      Attach detailed description for voice services rate  
comparability compliance

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Attached Document

<1020>      Broadband comparability certification      No

<1030>      Attach detailed description for broadband  
comparability compliance

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Attached Document



**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

<b>(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers</b> <b>Lifeline</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@qhvalley.net

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation**

FCC Form 481

**Data Collection Form**

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

*Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers*

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

**Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting**

- <2010> 2nd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(i) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support
- <2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 1 recipients of Incremental Support
- <2022> Recipient certifies, representing year two after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2023> The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2025A> Round 1 or Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2025B> Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 1 for year three and Round 2 for year two) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)






Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

Data Collection Form

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

**Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}**

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

**Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}**

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017B> Attach information for Phase II - 54.313(e)(1) - list of geocoded locations already meeting the 54.309 public interest obligations at the end of calendar year 2015 and total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price

Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2015.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(2)(ii)

Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(2)(v)

<2020> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 40% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2017 - 54.313(e)(3)

<2021> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 60% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2018 - 54.313(e)(4)

<2026> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 80% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2019 - 54.313(e)(5)

<2027> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 100% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2020 - 54.313(e)(6)

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

Complete the items below to note compliance with five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)		
(3010A)	Milestone Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}	Yes - Attach Certification	
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	371518ne3010.pdf
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}	No - No New Community Anchors	
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
(3015)	Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires: Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3019)	If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit. If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	371518ne3026.pdf

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**(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)**

FCC Form 481

**Data Collection Form**

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

**Financial Data Summary**

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

<b>(4005) Rural Broadband Experiment Additional Documentation</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	<b>FCC Form 481</b> <b>OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819</b> <b>July 2013</b>
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<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
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Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
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4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
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<b>Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:**

<b>Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients</b>	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	



<b>Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	371518
<015> Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:**

<b>Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier</b>	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>JSI</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	<u>JSI</u>
Name of Reporting Carrier:	<u>ELSIE COMM., INC.</u>
Signature of Authorized Officer:	<u>CERTIFIED ONLINE</u> Date: <u>06/25/2016</u>
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	<u>David Shipley</u>
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	<u>Vice President</u>
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	<u>8665426780 ext.</u>
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	<u>371518</u> Filing Due Date for this form: <u>07/01/2016</u>
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:**

<b>Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier</b>	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	<u>ELSIE COMM., INC.</u>
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	<u>JSI</u>
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	<u>CERTIFIED ONLINE</u> Date: <u>06/25/2016</u>
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	<u>Diane Longenecker</u>
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	<u>Staff Director - Regulatory Affairs</u>
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	<u>5123380473 ext.535</u>
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	<u>371518</u> Filing Due Date for this form: <u>07/01/2016</u>
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

## Attachments

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

**ATTACHMENT - LINE 112**

**Five-Year Network Improvement Plan and  
Progress Report**

**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**

Elsie Communications, Inc.  
FCC Form 481 – Line 510  
Program Year – 2015

SERVICE QUALITY STANDARDS  
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION RULES COMPLIANCE

Elsie Communications, Inc. (“Elsie”) is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules.

Elsie complies with consumer protection obligations under Nebraska state law. Specifically, Nebraska Consumer Protection Act, Nebraska Revised Statute § 59-1601, and the Nebraska Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Nebraska Revised Statute § 87-301. The Consumer Protection Act outlaws unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce. The Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act enumerates particular trade practices that violate the statute and prohibits unconscionable acts or practices by a supplier in connection with a consumer transaction.

Elsie also complies with the Nebraska Administrative Code, Title 291 Nebraska Public Service Commission, Chapter 5 Telecommunications Rules and Regulations. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff which discloses rates, and terms and conditions of service to customers (2) adherence to Quality of Service Standards, (3) conforming to Customer Billing standards and (4) addressing Customer Complaints. Elsie submits annually to the Nebraska Public Service Commission data pertaining to Complaints (§ 009.04A4) and Consumer Protection/Service Quality Standards (§ 009.04A5).

Elsie is also subject to federal truth-in-billing requirements, has implemented CPNI and Red Flag Rules policies, and is complying with other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers’ privacy.

Elsie is subject to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in F.C.C. 47 C.F.R. Part 8 §8.3. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the *2015 Open Internet Order*, as it applies to the Company.

**ELSIE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**STUDY AREA CODE 371518**

**RESPONSE TO LINE 610 – ABILITY TO FUNCTION IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

**(Voice and Broadband)**

Elsie Communications, Inc. (“The Company”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in §54.201(a)(2).<sup>1</sup> The Company’s voice and broadband network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). The Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow the Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. The Company has battery back-up at all office locations and in its electronic equipment sites. The Company’s standby generators and battery back-up equipment support both voice and broadband network equipment in the event of an emergency situation. The length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers supported by the equipment.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 54.201(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to “demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.”

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@qhvalley.net

<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2016
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	20.59

<703>

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<b>(710) Broadband Price Offerings</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(800) Operating Companies	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	371518
<015>	Study Area Name	ELSIE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	David Shipley
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8665426780 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dshipley@ghvalley.net
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Elsie Communications, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	USConnect Holdings, Inc.
<812>	Operating Company	Elsie Communications, Inc.

[illegible]



**Elsie Communications, Inc.**

**Study Area Code: 371518**

**Rates, Terms and Conditions for Lifeline Service**

**(Response to Form 481, Line 1210)**

Local exchange service rates and charges as specified below are for basic local exchange service, including Tone Dialing Service, and facilities only. The rates for other ancillary services not specifically shown below are presented in Elsie Communications, Inc.'s tariff(s) on file with the Nebraska Public Service Commission. Unless otherwise specified, the rates and charges quoted below are for a period of one month, payable in advance and provide unlimited flat rate calling within the local exchange calling scope.

**Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rates:<sup>(1)(2)</sup>**

<b>Exchange Name</b>	<b>R-1 Rate</b>	<b>Res. EAS Charge</b>
Elsie	\$ 19.25	\$ -

<sup>(1)</sup> Above listed fees do not include mandatory taxes, fees and surcharges, including, but not limited to Nebraska Universal Service Fund charges, 9-1-1 fees, and municipal franchise fees.

<sup>(2)</sup> Qualified Lifeline customers are eligible for Lifeline credits or discounts as outlined in the attached Lifeline tariff.

3. LOCAL SERVICES

3.1 Local Exchange Telephone Service – Basic Service Rates

These monthly rates apply to all subscribers of the Company. This rate covers the provision of network access to a local customer location, and entitles the customer to local calls (without toll charge) to all local stations connected to a central office of the exchange, or to all local extended local service area where comprised of more than one exchange. Touchtone dialing capability is included. Service may be temporarily suspended at the customer's request under a Number Reserve Rate.

(N)

(N)

The following rates apply to all customers for basic local exchange service within the exchange of Elsie:

	<u>Monthly Rate</u>
Business Access Line	\$29.95
Residence Access Line	\$19.25

3.11 Lifeline Service

The Lifeline Service (Lifeline) program, sponsored by the FCC, is a program Designed to maintain and preserve universal service by providing a reduction in the price of basic residential local exchange service to qualifying low-income customers.

a. General

1. Lifeline is a federally funded reduction of the subscriber line charge (SLC) and a reduction of local service charges. Eligible applicants will Receive a reduction of \$9.25 on their local telephone bill.
  - (a) Lifeline customers will also receive additional Lifeline Service reductions in intrastate local service of \$3.50.
2. Local service for Lifeline customers may not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges.
  - (a) Toll Restriction Service will be provided to Lifeline customers at no charge.
  - (b) Lifeline customers are not required to accept Toll Restriction Service as a condition to avoid disconnection of local service for non-payment of toll.
  - (c) Lifeline customers are not required to pay a deposit in order to obtain local service if the customer voluntarily elects installation of Toll Restriction Service.
3. Partial payments from Lifeline customers will be applied first to local service charges and then to toll charges.

4. Lifeline customers will not be denied re-establishment of service on the basis that the customer was previously disconnected for non-payment of toll charges.
5. Lifeline will not be furnished on a Foreign Exchange service arrangement.
- b. Eligibility Requirements
  1. Lifeline will be provided for one (1) telephone line per household, at the customer's principal place of residence who have only one local exchange access line to his/her residential premises or dwelling place<sup>1</sup>. Verification of this requirement will be through a certification. (T)
  2. Applicant has not been claimed as a dependant for Federal Income Tax purposes, unless the applicant is more than sixty (60) years old.
  3. Show that he/she is currently a recipient of benefits from one of the following public assistance programs or meets the income based eligibility criteria: (T)  
(T)
    - Federal Public Housing Assistance
    - Food Stamps
    - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
    - Medicaid
    - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
    - National School Lunch Program (N)
    - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
    - Income Based: Household gross monthly income that does not exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (N)
- Individuals choosing this option must obtain and provide to the Company a copy of a valid identification card or the appropriate documents that are issued to them by the agency administering the program.
- c. Certification
  1. The customer will certify eligibility for Lifeline Service. Recertification is required annually, at any time the qualifying criteria for the customer Changes, or upon request by Company. (T)  
(N)  
  
The customer cannot receive Lifeline support from multiple providers. (N)  
  
Recipients of Lifeline Service must notify the Company when they no Longer qualify for Lifeline Service. Upon receipt of the notification, the Telephone Company will discontinue Lifeline Service.

<sup>1</sup>A residential premises or dwelling place is the location where a customer resides, even if such residential premises or dwelling place is only a single room. Lifeline will not be provided if the customer has access to other local exchange telephone service within the residential premises or dwelling place, provided/owned by himself/herself or owned/provided by others. If, however, it can be determined by the Telephone Company that access to other existing local exchange telephone service owned/provided by others is virtually denied, or is inaccessible to the customer, then Lifeline Service will be provided.

If the Company discovers that conditions exist that disqualify the recipient of Lifeline Service, local service will be billed at the full rate. The customer will be billed retroactively either to the date Lifeline Service commenced or the date the recipient no longer qualified for the service, not to exceed 12 months.

3.12 Telecommunications Relay System (TRS)

Enables deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech impaired persons who use Text Telephone (TT) or similar devices to communicate freely with the hearing population not using TT and vice versa. A customer will be able to access the state provider to complete such calls. The Company shall add the surcharge to each subscriber's local telephone bill.

Pursuant to Neb.Rev.St. §86-313, the Commission shall determine a surcharge on each telephone subscriber to fund the TRS. Such charge may be adjusted on July 1 of each year. The surcharge is used to fund the TRS and the Nebraska Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Program for the coming year. The surcharge shall be billed to each access line in Nebraska. The surcharge shall only be collected on the first one hundred telephone access lines per subscriber.

	<u>Monthly Charge</u>	
Per Access Line	\$ 0.02	(R)

3.13 Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF)

On January 13, 1999, the Nebraska Public Service Commission authorized the implementation of the Nebraska Universal Service Fund to ensure that all customers in Nebraska have access to affordable basic telephone service in a competitive market.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission established a new surcharge to fund The Nebraska Universal Service Fund. All customers of retail services in Nebraska will pay the monthly surcharge, which will be based on a percentage of their basic local service, in state long-distance charges, and any optional services.

**Elsie Communications, Inc.**

**Study Area Code: 371518**

**Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))**

Elsie Communications, Inc. hereby certifies that throughout 2015, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time. If a request for broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is unreasonable, and offering broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is reasonable, Elsie Communications, Inc. offers broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

**ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026**

**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**